



## **McGregor W. Scott**

United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California

*Sacramento*  
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100  
Sacramento CA 95814  
(916) 554-2700

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Fresno*  
1130 O. Street, Rm 3654  
Fresno, CA 93721  
(559) 498-7272

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
**November 18, 2005**

Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

### **OAKDALE MAN INDICTED IN SCHEME TO DEFRAUD BANK OF STOCKTON OUT OF \$271,000**

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury sitting in Fresno indicted KENNY GEORGE STURGES late yesterday in a four-count indictment charging him with bank fraud. The United States District Court in Fresno issued a warrant for STURGES' arrest yesterday as well.

This case is the product of an investigation jointly conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Oakdale Police Department.

According to the indictment STURGES, 52, of Oakdale, California, devised a scheme to defraud the federally-insured Bank of Stockton through a pattern of depositing, cashing and attempting to cash, counterfeit or fraudulent financial instruments for large amounts of money.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Marlon Cobar, who is prosecuting the case, the financial instruments which the defendant negotiated or attempted to negotiate included International Postal Money Orders, corporate and credit card checks. The defendant began executing the scheme to defraud within a few days of April 14, 2005 when he opened a personal checking account at the bank. Postal Inspectors began investigating the case, with the assistance of the Oakdale Police Department, after identifying a large number of high-quality International Postal Money Orders which the defendant either cashed or attempted to cash at the bank. In total, the defendant cashed or attempted to cash a total of \$271,700 in financial instruments at the bank.

The maximum penalty for bank fraud is 30 years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine and five years of supervised release. However, if convicted, STURGES' sentence would be imposed by a federal judge with the advice of the United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The charges contained in the indictment are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

###